

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A biaxially oriented film having a water wettable surface, said film comprising a porous high density polyethylene HDPE surface layer and a coating consisting essentially of a silicone glycol composition  
5 impregnated in the pore space of said surface layer.
2. A biaxially oriented film according to claim 1, wherein said porous surface layer comprises: (i) a matrix comprising HDPE and (ii) a network of interconnecting pores communicating throughout said porous  
10 surface layer.
3. A biaxially oriented multilayer film according to claim 2, wherein said porous surface layer further comprises a cavitating agent.
4. A biaxially oriented film according to claim 3, wherein said  
15 cavitating agent is calcium carbonate.
5. A biaxially oriented film according to claim 1, further comprising a core layer co-extruded with said porous surface layer.  
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6. A biaxially oriented film according to claim 5, wherein said core layer is a porous layer comprising (i) a matrix comprising HDPE; (ii) a network of interconnecting pores communicating throughout the porous core layer; and (iii) a cavitating agent.  
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7. A biaxially oriented film according to claim 6, wherein the cavitating agent of said core layer is calcium carbonate.
8. A biaxially oriented film according to claim 7, further comprising  
30 a noncavitated skin layer coextruded to said core layer on the opposite side of the core layer from said porous high density polyethylene HDPE surface layer.